THE

VOYAGE

OF

Captain THOMAS JAMES,

FOR THE

DISCOVERY of a NORTH-WEST PASSAGE to the SOUTH-SEAS.

CHAP. I.

Captain James *ſets ſail from* Briſtol, *and arrives on the Coaſt of* Greenland, *where he is in great Danger from the Ice. He lands in ſeveral Places; the Crew undergo dreadful Diſtreſſes, and the Ship being at length covered with Ice, and the Sails froze, the Crew prepare for ſpending the Winter near* Charlton *Iſland.*

ABOUT the year 1630, ſeveral of the merchants of *Briſtol* formed themſelves into a company, for diſcovering a paſſage by the weſt to the *South-Sea*, and thence to *Ja-*

*pan**; and as Captain *James* had been employed before in ſome northern voyages, and was juſtly eſteemed both a man of integrity, and an old experienced ſailor, he was thought the fitteſt perſon in the kingdom for attempting this long wiſhed for diſcovery. His Majeſty King *Charles* I. being informed of this deſign by Sir *Thomas Rowe*, who had many years before been ſent on an embaſſy to *Indoſtan*, was pleaſed to make known his approbation of it, and to confirm the choice made of Captain *James*.

Mr. *James* deſired only a ſingle ſhip of 70 tons burden, which was built for this voyage. This veſſel being manned with 22 men, and furniſhed with proviſions and other neceſſaries for 18 months, fell down *Briſtol* channel on the 3d of *May*, 1631; but meeting with a contrary wind, was obliged on the 8th to put into *Milford* Haven, where ſhe remained till the 17th, when taking the advantage of a fair wind, Mr. *James* again ſet ſail, and on the 4th of *June* came within ſight of *Greenland*.

Early the next morning the ſhip was encompaſſed with ice, and the men endeavouring to clear themſelves of it, were the more engaged, and the ſhip endangered by frequently ſtriking upon it. They, however, made faſt to a

* *See ſome account of former Voyages, made for the ſame purpoſe, by Captain* Davis, *in* Vol. IV. Chap. V. Page 41; *and by Captain* Hudſon, *and Captain* Button, *ib.* Chap. XIII. Page 152.

large

large piece, and with poles laboured day and night in repelling the repeated attacks of the others; in which employment all their poles were broken. On the 6th the danger increaſed, prodigious pieces of ice coming down upon the ſhip with ſuch violence, that ſhe was in danger of being cruſhed to pieces; but by ſpreading her ſails, ſhe eſcaped this danger, yet ran upon another piece of ice with ſuch force, that the Captain was for a moment in doubt, whether ſhe was not ſtaved to pieces; and, indeed, this was actually the caſe with the ſhallop. Captain *James* now cauſed the long-boat to be hoiſted out, by which the broken ſhallop was recovered and brought upon the deck; the Captain intending to rebuild her the firſt opportunity. All that day it blew a perfect ſtorm, and it was not without very great difficulty, that he forced his way through theſe dangerous impediments, by making all the ſail poſſible; and, though the ſhip was beat againſt the ice, thoſe on board, to their great ſurpriſe and joy, brought her off without the leaſt damage. On the 7th and 8th they endeavoured to double Cape *Farewell*. On the 10th, the ſea near the ſouthermoſt point of *Greenland* being very rough, and ſome pieces of ice ſwimming in ſight, higher than the main-top-maſt-head, the long-boat broke from the ſtern, and was with difficulty recovered and brought into the ſhip. About eight in the evening, they were off Cape *Reſolution*, in 60°. north lat. In this courſe they received many ſhocks from the mountains of ice: the ſea was

filled with grampuſſes, and the weather was foggy.

On the 17th at night the weather was dark, foggy, and ſo ſharp, that the ſails and rigging were frozen: at the ſame time, from the hideous noiſe made by the waves, they judged themſelves nigh the ſhore; but in the morning they found it was no more than a piece of ice, and at the ſame time they perceived the Iſland of *Reſolution*, in the mouth of *Hudſon's* Streights, and endeavoured to double the ſouthern point, where they obſerved the tide run with great ſwiftneſs into the ſtreight, and that the ebb was equally ſtrong with the flood. As the fog cleared up, they ſaw that the entrance of the ſtreight was filled with ice cloſe wedged together, when endeavouring to proceed forwards, they were faſt incloſed and driven to and fro with it. The fog was here ſo penetrating, as to render the compaſſes uſeleſs.

On the morning of the 20th they had doubled the ſouthermoſt point of the Iſland of *Reſolution*, when the wind turning about to the weſt, drove both them and the ice towards the land, within two leagues of which they came into a ſtrong eddy of the ſea, that whirled both the ſhip and the ice about in a ſurpriſing manner. Prodigious pieces were aground in 40 fathoms water, and the ebb ruſhing from the broken grounds of the iſland, carried them round ſometimes cloſe by rocks, and at others ſo near to theſe lofty iſlands of ice, that they were afraid they would fall upon them. To prevent their being driven

driven on ſhore, they faſtened two large pieces of ice to the ſides of the ſhip, with their kedger and grapnels: theſe pieces drew nine or ten fathoms, and theſe they imagined would be aground before them, if they ſhould happen to be driven on ſhore. But this expedient not appearing ſufficient to ſecure the veſſel, the boat was hoiſted out in ſearch of a place of ſafety among the rocks. But ſhe was inſtantly incloſed, and the men were obliged to haul her upon the ice, to prevent her being daſhed to pieces, and to drag her from piece to piece. In the mean time the whirling of the ice broke the two floating pieces from the ſides of the ſhip, and the kedger and grapnels were carried away. They then made ſigns to the boat to return, which ſhe with great difficulty performed, and in the mean time they recovered their grapnels. The boat was, however, manned anew, and with difficulty recovered the kedger. It was with extraordinary joy they ſaw her return; for having dropped anchor in a ſhallow rocky bottom, they had loſt ſight of her, and ſuppoſed ſhe was unfortunately ſunk with one third of the crew. The ſhip had now only three fathoms water, and lay under the ſhelter of a large piece of ice that was aground, and kept off the floating ice, that would otherwiſe have driven upon her: but at the return of the tide was aſſaulted with pieces, that every half-hour threw the men into great diſtreſs, and obliged them to work continually to keep them off. At high water the great piece of

of ice that was their buckler was afloat; and, notwithſtanding all their endeavours to ſtop it, got away from them, and left them in imminent danger from the ice that drove in upon them; but at the return of ebb, this large piece came again aground, in ſo favourable a manner as to ſhelter them all the reſt of the ebb. All night they worked hard in ſhifting their cables and hawſers, and making them faſt aloft to the rocks, that the ice might the better paſs under them; but all day and night it ſnowed hard, and blew a ſtorm at weſt, which drove in the ice out of the ſea upon them; in oppoſing which the hook of the kedger, two arms of the grapnels, and two hawſers were broken, and the ſhallop was much bruiſed. This tide the harbour was choaked up with ice, in ſuch a manner, that it ſeemed firm and immoveable; but at ebb, ſome large pieces came aground, altered the courſe of the other ice, and put the ſhip on the rocks.

The following tide the ſhip was driven upon a ſharp rock, a part of which aroſe above the water, higher than the main-maſt; and as the water ebbed, ſhe heeled ſo much to the ſea-ward, that there was no ſtanding in her; and as it was apprehended that ſhe would ſoon overſet, the men got upon a piece of ice, and went to prayers; but at the coming of the tide, ſhe began unexpectedly to come to rights, and they ſoon to their great joy ſaw her afloat. They now worked hard to change their ſituation, and to have as much of the ice as they could between them and the rocks. For this purpoſe,

purpoſe, they with axes and bars of iron broke the corners of the ice, to make way for its paſſing by them, and to get as much of the ſofter kind of ice about them as poſſible. Captain *James* now went on ſhore, which he could eaſily do, the ice joining ſo as to form a continued footing to the land; and having erected a beacon of ſtones, he placed a croſs upon it, and named it the *Harbour of God's Providence*. At low water thoſe pieces that were aground broke with a thundering noiſe.

On the 23d, in the morning, the ice drove up with the flood among the broken grounds, and with the ebb flowed all out, except a large piece that came aground and ſettled near the ſhip. Captain *James* then took the boat, and went aſhore on the eaſt ſide of the iſland, and having climbed up a hill, to ſee if he could deſcry any place free from danger to which he might ſteer the ſhip, he obſerved one that ſeemed likely to anſwer his purpoſe; but while he was viewing it, he heard the great piece of ice ſplit near the ſhip in four pieces. This made him apprehend the deſtruction of the veſſel; on which he haſted to the boat, and thence to the ſhip, when to his great joy he found ſhe had received no damage. He now ſent the boat into the cove he had diſcovered, and at her return unmoored the ſhip, and with all poſſible ſpeed warped her away from the ice; but they had not got a mile from it before it broke all to pieces in ſuch a manner, that all on board were certain the ſhip would have been ſunk

ſunk had ſhe continued a little longer in her former ſtation.

Having entered the cove they made the ſhip faſt to the rocks, which being done, Captain *James* went again on ſhore to ſee what he could diſcover. He found it all broken rocky ground, without ſo much as a tree, herb, or blade of grats upon it. As the ponds were ſtill frozen, no fowls were as yet to be expected, and there was no ſign of either deer or bears. However, he ſaw one or two foxes; and from a few fire-brands, bones of foxes, and whale bones, it appeared that ſome of the ſavages had been there ſome time before; yet it was not eaſy to imagine what could have invited them thither, as the ſoil was entirely barren, and the ſea, at leaſt at that time, void of fiſh. The Captain called this *Price's Cove*, from the name of the maſter of his ſhip: it is in latitude 61°. 24′, and from the high grounds they could ſee Sir *Thomas Button's* Iſlands.

A freſh gale ſpringing up at eaſt on the 24th in the morning, they ſteered between great pieces of ice that were aground in 40 fathoms, and twice as high as the top-maſt-head, when ſailing out of the cove, he endeavoured to gain the north ſhore; but though for the ſpace of a league they had clear water, the ice was wedged together in the offing as thick as poſſible, and notwithſtanding it continued blowing hard from the eaſt, they could make no way through it, the ice grating with ſuch violence, that it was apprehended it would wrench the planks from the ſhip's ſides. Thus they continued

tinued driving among the ice till the 26th, without their being able, even from the top-maſt-head, to diſcern ſo much open ſea as amounted to half a quarter of a mile; but then the weather clearing up, they had calm ſunſhine: yet the nights ſtill continued ſo cold that their rigging froze. They continued ſailing till the 5th of *July* thro' theſe obſtructions, with variable winds and fogs, and ſometimes a calm, when having clear weather, they obſerved *Salisbury Iſland*, and ſoon after *Prince Charles's Cape* and *Mill Iſland*; but the ſea to the north-north-weſt, and indeed all around them, appeared encumbered with ice, which gave Captain *James* much concern, from his finding it impoſſible that year to proſecute the diſcovery as he intended to the north-weſtward. The ſhip was ſtill in the greateſt danger, and the people on board were a thouſand times under the apprehenſions of her being beaten to pieces.

Hudſon's Streights beginning at the iſland of *Reſolution*, and ending at *Digg's Iſland*, are about 120 leagues long. In the entrance they are generally about 15 leagues broad, and between *Digg's Iſland* and *Cape Charles* are about the breadth of 20 leagues. The north ſhore is the ſtraiteſt and cleareſt from ice, but there are many ſmall low iſlands on its coaſt. Here is a certain tide, but no current.

Captain *James* being now convinced of the impoſſibility of doing any thing to the north-weſtward, ſteered on the 16th weſt-ſouth-weſt towards *Mansfield* Iſland, which at three in the afternoon of the enſuing day he gained ſight of,

of, the ſhip receiving in her courſe many dreadful ſhocks from the ice. Here the crew were put to half allowance of bread. In the evening ſhe came to an anchor, when ſending the boats to ſound, it was found that the water flowed from the weſt-ſouth-weſt, and the higheſt tides, as far as could be perceived, had not ſwelled above two fathoms. The ſhip ſtood off and on a good way down, but could find little or no drift wood or beaſts on the iſland, nor any thing uſeful, except a few fowls, one of which they ſhot. *Manſfield* Iſland is low land, and has ponds of freſh water, but no graſs, it being entirely barren.

The wind coming favourable on the 18th, they ſet ſail, intending to fall in with the weſtern land, but after ſteering for a ſhort time, through what they began to hope was an open ſea, they came to a firm range of ice; upon this they ſtood to the ſouth-weſt; but at length fell in with thick frozen ruts, in which they were ſometimes faſt locked up, and at others were able to proceed forwards by the help of the wind, generally ſuffering the inconvenience of a very thick fog. At length they were incloſed with ice for three days together, and notwithſtanding they hoiſted all their ſails, and it blew a hard gale of wind, the ſhip ſtirred no more than if ſhe had been in a dry dock: the crew therefore went all out upon the ice to ſport and recreate themſelves; when ſome of the flat pieces being meaſured were found to be 1000 paces long.

This

This was the firſt day in which the men began to murmur, thinking it impoſſible to get either forwards or backwards, and dreading leſt they ſhould not be able to land in order to ſpend the winter. The Captain encouraged them as much as he was able, and to chaſe away theſe apprehenſions, made them drink a health to his Majeſty on the ice, the ſhip ſtill continuing under all her ſails without a ſingle man on board. The Captain himſelf ſaw the juſtice of their fears, and apprehending that they ſhould be frozen up in the ſea, ordered that a fire ſhould be made but once a day, and that with only a certain number of faggots, which the ſteward was to deliver to the cook by tale, in order to prolong the fuel.

On the firſt of *Auguſt* they perceived the ice to heave and ſet a little, occaſioned by a ſwelling ſea that came from the ſouth-weſt, which gave them great comfort, as it made them hope they ſhould ſoon get out of the ice. On the third, they obſerved a little open water to the north-weſtward, and feeling a ſea flow from thence were perſuaded of there being an open ſea to the weſtward. On the fifth, they ſaw the ſea clear, but could by no means work themſelves to it with their ſails; therefore about ſix in the evening they let fall an anchor in 50 fathoms water, and ſtood with their poles and oars to puſh off the ice to the leeward, at which labour they continued all night. In the morning the wind coming up at north-weſt they weighed with much joy, and ſoon got

into an open ſea to the ſouthward in latitude 58°. 28′. On the 11th, they entered the bay called *Hubbart's Hope*, and in the night came to an anchor with the kedger; but afterwards attempting to weigh, had the misfortune to loſe it, though they had not another on board. They then proceeded to the ſouthward, and on the 13th in the afternoon, when it was ſomewhat hazy, ſaw ſome breakers ahead, and endeavouring to get clear of them ſuddenly ſtruck upon the rocks; the ſhip being under her topſails, fore-ſail, and ſprit-ſail, with a freſh gale of wind. Upon this dreadful accident they immediately ſtruck all their ſails, and having providentially two or three good ſwelling ſeas, which heaved them over the rocks, they caſt anchor, and ſoon found that the ſhip had received no damage, though ſhe had three ſuch terrible blows that all on board thought her maſts would have ſhivered to pieces, and that ſhe was certainly bulged.

On the 20th they came to an anchor off a point of land bending away to the ſouthward. They called this the *New Principality of South Wales*, and drank to the health of *Charles* then Prince of *Wales*. At this time the weather was calm, but on the 21ſt at night the wind roſe, and the ſhip drove in ſuch a manner as made them imagine they had loſt their anchor, upon which they attempted to weigh it by means of the capſtan, in doing which they found it had hitched, and upon the chopping of the ſea, threw the men with ſuch force from the capſtan, that they were dreadfully bruiſed,

bruiſed, and one of them had like to have loſt his head, by its being entangled in the cable. Mr. *Price*, the maſter, narrowly avoided breaking his leg, and the gunner's foot was wrung off at the ancle; the fleſh of his leg was alſo torn off, and the bone cruſhed to pieces, ſo that he was forced to have his whole leg cut off above the knee to prevent a mortification.

On the 27th in the morning coming to a high land, they ſtood towards it, and came to an anchor in five fathoms water, when Captain *James* ſent off the boat well manned and armed, with written inſtructions, and a ſtrict charge to return before ſun-ſet; but the evening came without his hearing any news of the boat, which gave him great uneaſineſs, eſpecially when he found that his ſhot and falſe fires were ſpent in vain, whence he ſuppoſed that ſhe was either loſt, or that the people in her had fallen a prey to the ſavages; and this he had the greater reaſon to fear, as there was a fire upon the ſhore, though no returns were made to his falſe fires. The proſpect of thoſe on board the ſhip was now very dreadful, for they had not hands ſufficient to weigh the anchor or manage the ſails: but at length, to the inexpreſſible joy of all on board, the boat returned, when the men excuſed themſelves, by declaring that upon their coming aſhore, a ſudden ebb had obliged them to wait the return of the tide. They reported that they had diſcovered the tracts of deer and bears, and ſaw many fowls, of which they had killed ſome: that a conſiderable quantity of

wood was growing on the land, and that a good deal was thrown on ſhore by the waves, but they could diſcern no ſign of inhabitants.

On the 29th in the morning a ſhip was diſcovered about four leagues to the leeward, which proved to be a king's ſhip commanded by Captain *Fox*, who exchanged the uſual ſalutes with them. That evening Mr. *James* ſent his boat aboard of her, and the next morning the Captain and ſome of his officers paid Mr. *James* a viſit, and were received in the beſt manner his circumſtances would permit. He ſtaid aboard the ſhip till the evening, and the next morning ſtood away to the ſouth-ſouth-weſt. The month of *Auguſt* concluded with ſnow and hail, and the weather was as ſevere as it is commonly in *England* in the depth of winter.

On the third of *September* they ſtood in for the ſhore, and arriving at the cape named it *Henrietta Maria*, from her Majeſty's name. On the fourth they had a violent ſtorm; but though at noon the weather cleared up, yet in the evening there came a great rolling ſea from the north-north-eaſt, with a very high wind from the ſouth-eaſt, and a moſt dreadful tempeſt of wind, lightning, ſnow, and rain, continued all night. The ſea, which ran mountains high, waſhed over the deck, poured into the hold, and made its way into the bread room, where it ſpoiled almoſt all the proviſions. This dreadful hurricane continued till the fifth in the evening, with ſuch violence, that they had the greateſt difficult

difficulty to keep every thing faſt in the hold.

On the 10th they made an iſland about eight or nine leagues long, in latitude 53°. 5′. which the Captain named *Lord Weſton's* Iſland; after which they ſtood to the eaſtward, and on the 11th made an iſland in 52°. 45′. upon which the Captain went aſhore in his boat, and afterwards ſent ſome of the men to another part of it; but neither he nor they could find any vegetables, or ſo much as a little ſorrel, ſcurvy-graſs, or the leaſt relief for the ſick men.

On the 12th in the morning the wind blowing hard at ſouth-eaſt, the ſhip, through the negligence of thoſe on the deck, ran upon the rocks, and a wreck ſeeming inevitable, the carpenters tools, a barrel of powder, ſix muſquets, fiſhing hooks, lines, pitch and oakum, with a tinder box and matches were ſent on ſhore. In the mean time they laid out an anchor to heave the ſhip aſtern, threw out all the coals, ſtaved the water in the hold, and ſet the pump to work in order to lighten the ſhip, intending to have done the ſame with the beer; but at length, after continuing five hours ſtriking in the moſt dreadful manner, ſhe got over the rocks in a very leaky condition.

On the 13th they ſtood to the weſtward, but there being no anchoring ground that promiſed ſafety, it was reſolved to ſteer to the northward towards the bottom of *Hudſon's* Bay, in order to ſearch for a paſſage into the river

of *Canada*, and if that failed, to winter on the main land, which would be preferable to their being placed among the rocks and iſlands.

In the evening of the 14th a ſtorm aroſe, when the ſhallop being towed a-ſtern, ſhipped a great ſea, and was ſunk with the keel upwards, ſo that ſhe was inevitably loſt. The ſhip had now only one boat left, and that in a crazy condition. The ſtorm continuing all night with an over-grown ſea, they began to prepare for death, but about noon the next day the weather cleared up, when they ſaw two iſlands, and running into an opening between them, found a good anchoring place, one ſide of which was formed by *Lord Weſton's* Iſland. Here they remained till the 19th, during which it ſnowed and blew ſo violently, that they durſt not put out their boat.

On the 19th the wind ſhifting to the north-north-eaſt, they weighed and ſtood to the ſouthward; but about noon the wind turning to the ſouth, they came to an anchor under another iſland, upon which the Captain went aſhore, and named it the *Earl of Briſtol's* Iſland. While the Captain wandered about, the carpenter repaired the boat. The iſland was ſo barren, that there was not any herb upon it, and Mr. *James* finding neither fowl nor fiſh, returned to the ſhip, and after ſteering about and frequently landing, at laſt came to *Charlton* Iſland, where they were on the 7th of *October*, when it ſnowed ſo violently, that they were forced to clear the deck with ſhovels, and the ſnow freezing over all parts of the ſhip, made her reſemble

reſemble a lump of ice; and though the ſun ſhone out the following day, it had not the ſlighteſt effect upon it. The cold now increaſed to ſuch a degree, that ſcarcely any thing could be preſerved from freezing even by the fire-ſide, and the ſails being ſtiff, and covered with ice, were of no uſe. The boat with great difficulty went on ſhore, and the Captain ſeeing the winter come on ſo faſt, ſent the carpenter to cut wood, and others to carry it to the water ſide, whilſt thoſe in the boat brought it on board.

CHAP. II.

A Houſe built on ſhore for the Sick. The Ship run aground to prevent her being driven to Sea, or diſſed to pieces againſt the Rocks. The Manner in which they ſpent the Winter in that inhoſpitable Climate.

THE men having brought as much wood on board as could be conveniently ſtowed, the ſick men deſired to have a little houſe or hovel built on ſhore, wherein they might be better ſheltered from the weather, in order to recover their health. Upon which Mr. *James* took the carpenter and other proper perſons, and having choſen a place, they were immediately ſet to work. In the mean time Captain *James*, with ſome attendants, ranged the iſland in ſearch of inhabitants, but found none, and returned much fatigued, the ſnow reaching up to

to the middle of their legs. The ſailors now took down the top-ſails, and making great fires upon the hearth in the hatchway, thawed and dried them, and then carefully laid them up between decks.

On the 12th the main-ſail was taken down, and being thawed by the fire was carried on ſhore to cover the new erected houſe.

On the 14th, ſome of the men being ſupplied with ammunition, went early in the morning to traverſe the country, and ſearch for ſome creek or cove for the ſhip, and on the 15th returned with a ſmall lean deer, which they had cut into four quarters. They reported that they had ſeen a few more, but no ſign of any other beaſt, though they had wandered 20 miles, and brought the deer above 12. In this excurſion they lay in the woods, where they were almoſt periſhed with cold, nor could they recover themſelves in three or four days after.

On the 19th the Lieutenant and five more of the men deſired leave to try their fortune in travelling about the iſland; but though they wandered very far in the ſnow, ſtaid out all night, and returned miſerably diſabled with cold, they took nothing: and what was ſtill worſe, loſt one of their company; for *John Barton*, the gunner's mate, being very weary attempted to croſs a pond, that was a quarter of a mile over, to ſave himſelf the trouble of going round; but when he was in the middle, the ice broke, cloſed upon him, and he was never ſeen more.

It now began to blow and ſnow ſo hard that the boat could hardly get on ſhore, and the men were obliged to land from it by wading in the thick congealed water; and a barrel of [illegible] being landed, froze firmly in the houſe in the night; but being thawed in a kettle over the fire, was good for nothing. Thoſe on board then broke the ice of a neighbouring pond to come at water, but it having a loathſome taſte, orders were given for none to touch it, leſt it ſhould be infectious. This diſappointment induced them to ſink a well near the houſe, where they found excellent water, which in their opinion taſted like milk. On the 10th the Captain ſet the carpenter to work to make a boat that might be carried over the ice, and uſed wherever there was water; the Captain alſo ordered the men to make traps to catch foxes, many of which were daily ſeen; ſome were black and white, whence it was concluded that there were ſome entirely black, whoſe ſkins the Captain told the men were of great value, and promiſed that whoever took one of them ſhould have the ſkin for his reward. Upon this they made ſeveral traps, and walked thro' the ſnow, which was very deep, to place them in the woods. The ſame day the Captain took the latitude of the iſland, which he found to be 52 degrees. Thus, notwithſtanding the dreadful ſeverity of the climate, this inhoſpitable iſland is but thirty minutes farther north than *London*.

On the 12th their houſe took fire; but the flames were ſoon extinguiſhed: however, as they

were obliged to keep an extraordinary fire at and day, this accident made the Captain order a conſtant watch to look after it. [illegible] *James* continued on ſhore till the 17th, during which it ſnowed and froze extremely: the ſhip from the ſhore reſembled a piece of ice in the form of a ſhip, the ſnow was all frozen about her, all her fore-part and ſides were firm ice, and the cables were frozen in the hawſe. The Captain now went on board, where he ſpent the nights in the moſt gloomy reflections, without the leaſt hopes of ſaving the veſſel, or the probable aſſurance of its being poſſible long to endure the extremities to which they were all reduced. The men were obliged every day to beat the ice off the cables, while ſome dug it out of the hawſers with the carpenter's long caulking iron; in which work the water froze on their cloaths and hands, and ſo benumbed them, that they could hardly get into the ſhip without being heaved in with a rope.

On the 22d in the morning, the gunner, who had had his leg cut off, died; and was buried in the ſea at a good diſtance from the ſhip. Some days before his death, he had deſired that he might be allowed to drink nothing but ſack, to which the Captain conſented; but the bottle in which it was contained froze at his bed's-head, as did the plaiſter at his wound, though he had a cloſe bearded cabin in the gun-room, as many cloaths upon him as were convenient, and a pan of live coals kept conſtantly by him.

On

On the evening of the 23d, juſt after watch was ſet, a large piece of ice came acroſs the hawſer, and four more followed after it, the laſt of which was a quarter of a mile over. The Captain and all on board were much terrified, imagining that theſe pieces of ice would drive the ſhip upon the rocks. They ſtrained the cable conſiderably, and in this extremity the crew fired ſignals of diſtreſs, which were anſwered by thoſe on ſhore, though they were unable to come to their aſſiſtance. However, this being newly congealed, only two inches thick, thoſe on board broke through it, and by ten o'clock it was all gone.

In the morning the Captain ſent for the men to come on board. They therefore ſhut up the houſe, and after being obliged to wade through the congealed water, with much pain reached the boat. When the whole crew were on board, it was reſolved to run her aground, in order to preſerve her as long as poſſible. This reſolution being taken, they with great difficulty landed part of their bread, and a hogſhead of beef: the bread that remained in the bread-room, with all the powder, was carried up into the great cabin. The ſhip being driven on ſhore, continued to beat violently, though ſhe was bedded two feet deep in the ſand; on which the Captain went with the carpenter into the hold, and bored a hole with an auger in her bottom, and in about ſix hours the water roſe, broke into the powder and bread rooms, and damaged her between decks, when

when it was every minute expected that th
would open and break to pieces; but afte
having beat off her rudder, which was loft, th
began to fettle. At night they took to the boat
but the water was fo thick with fnow, that i
was with great difficulty they reached the fhore,
by double manning four oars; and the Captain
and his men, on their landing, were fo altere
in their habits and voices, and by their face
hair, and apparel being frozen, that they fcarce
knew each other.

Having hauled up the boat, they went i
the dark along the beach fide to the houfe,
where having made a good fire, they eat fome
bread and drank melted water, after which
they deliberated on their fituation; the Cap-
tain ordering every one to fpeak his mind free-
ly. The carpenter gave it as his opinion, that
the fhip was quite foundered, or at leaft ren-
dered ufelefs by the lofs of her rudder; Mr.
James however thought otherwife, and encou-
raged his people to keep up their fpirits, by
a very pious fpeech, in which he obferved,
that if it was their fortunes to end their days
there, they were as near heaven as in *England*.
He encouraged them to rely upon that Provi-
dence which fupports thofe that confide in it,
and that if it fhould happen that the fhip was
foundered, they might at the worft build a
pinnace out of the wreck of the fhip, in which,
by the Divine affiftance, they might once more
be enabled to reach *Old England*. To this the
carpenter anfwered, that no induftry of his
fhould be wanting to extricate them out of this

place: and if the carpenter would aſſure him, he imagined the iſland produced timber enough for building a pinnace, without meddling with the ſhip, which might by ſome good chance be again rendered more uſeful than now ſeemed probable: and all the men immediately replied, they would do their utmoſt to help forward whatever work he ſhould undertake for the public good. The Captain thanked them all, and to encourage the carpenter, promiſed to give him immediately a piece of plate worth 10*l.* and that in caſe they went to *England* in the pinnace, he would freely give her to him, and alſo make him a preſent of 50*l.* in money; and that all the induſtrious ſhould be liberally rewarded. Having thus concluded this conſultation, they ſettled themſelves cloſe about the fire, and took their reſt till day-light appeared.

Early the next morning the Captain deſired the ſurgeon to cut off his hair ſhort, and to ſhave off his beard, which became extremely troubleſome from its being frequently frozen with large icicles; and all the reſt having followed his example, prepared for work. The firſt thing they were to do was to get the cloaths and proviſions on ſhore, and therefore the Captain divided the company; the maſter, and a proper number of men were to go on board to get things out of the hold; the cockſwain, with his gang, were to bring the things on ſhore in the boat; and the Captain, with the reſt of the people, were to carry them half a

mile through the ſnow, to a place where he intended to have a ſtorehouſe erected: but as for the heavier things, it was propoſed to leave them on the beach. In the afternoon the wind being at ſouth-ſouth-weſt, and the water having ebbed ſo low that they thought ſomething might be got out of the hold, they launched out the boat, and with their oars made way through the thick congealed water. It froze extremely hard, and the Captain ſtood on the ſhore with great uneaſineſs, thinking that the boat would be carried with the ebb into the ſea; and if that ſhould happen they were all loſt. However, they got ſafe to the ſhip, made a fire to ſignify their arrival on board, and falling to work, got ſomething out of the hold upon the deck; but night approaching, they durſt not venture back on ſhore, and therefore lay on the bed in the great cabin, where they were almoſt ſtarved.

The 1ſt of *December* was ſo cold, that the Captain went over the ice to the ſhip, the ſame way in which the boat had gone the day before; and he, with the men, carried upon their backs 500 of their fiſh, and a great part of their bedding and cloaths, which they were obliged to dig out of the ice. The 2d was mild weather, and ſome of the men going over the ice, they fell in, and were with great difficulty ſaved; ſo that not being able to get to the ſhip, the Captain directed them to begin the ſtorehouſe on ſhore. The ſame evening the ice broke, and was driven by the wind out of the bay. On the 3d ſeveral large pieces of ice

ice came acroſs the ſhip; the men, however, found a way for the boat, but when ſhe was laden ſhe drew four feet water, and could not come within a flight ſhot of the ſhore: ſo that the men were forced to undergo the hardſhip of wading through the congealed water with loads upon their backs. In this cold evening they cut away as much ice from about the boat as they were able to pick out of her with hand-ſpikes, and endeavoured to hoiſt her into the ſhip, there being but little hopes of going backwards or forwards with her again; but their whole united ſtrength being inſufficient, they were obliged to leave her in the tackles by the ſhip's ſide.

The 4th, being *Sunday*, they reſted, and ſpent their time in religious exerciſes. The two following days the weather being extremely cold, they made bags of their ſtore ſhirts, in which they carried the looſe bread to ſhore over the ice. They alſo dug their cloaths and new ſails out of the ice with iron hand-ſpikes, and carrying them on ſhore, dried them by a large fire. The 7th was ſo exceſſive cold that their noſes, cheeks, and hands froze as white as paper; and though the two following days continued extremely cold, and there fell a great quantity of ſnow, yet they purſued their labour in carrying and rolling goods on ſhore.

The cold now increaſed to ſuch a degree, that by the 19th they could get nothing more out of the hold, but were obliged to leave five barrels of beef and pork, all their beer, and

ſeveral other things, which were frozen ſo faſt as not to be moved. The 21ſt was ſo cold that they could not go out of the houſe, but on the 22d they went to get the boat aſhore, having before dug her out of the ice. By ten in the morning there came ſo thick a fog, that it was as dark as night; upon which the Captain made them lay aſide their work, and make what haſte they could to the ſhore, which they had much ado to find without looſing one another. At laſt, however, they met at the houſe, but in the moſt miſerable frozen condition imaginable; for ſeveral of the men had bliſters raiſed by the cold as big as walnuts, which it was thought proceeded from their too haſtily approaching the fire.

Their well being now frozen up, they found that no water was to be had by digging ever ſo deep, and were therefore obliged to make uſe of ſnow water, both for drink and dreſſing of victuals. This they found to be very unwholeſome, it giving them ſuch a ſhortneſs of breath, that they were ſcarce able to ſpeak. All their ſack, vinegar, oil, and every thing elſe that was liquid, was now frozen as hard as a piece of wood, and they were forced to cut it with a hatchet; nay, the froſt was ſo ſevere as to penetrate within a yard of the fire-ſide. About this time the Captain recollecting that on his firſt landing he had diſcovered a ſpring at the foot of a hill at a ſmall diſtance, near which he ordered ſome trees to be cut for marks to know the place, he ſent three of the men that had been there with him, who at

at last found it, and shovelling away the snow, came to the very head, where they found it rise strongly, and to the Captain's great joy brought him a can of it. This discovery proved of vast service to the people; for the spring flowed the whole year, and was never frozen so hard, but that they could come at it by breaking the ice.

They now settled their bedding and provisions, and made preparations for keeping *Christmas-Day* in as religious and chearful a manner as they were able. And now Captain *James* says, that instead of a *Christmas* tale he will describe the house they lived in, with others that were adjoining.

On his first resolving to build a house, he chose the warmest and most convenient situation, and one that was at the same time nearest the ship. It was among a thick tuft of trees, under a rising ground facing the south. This building they chose to erect, from their finding they could not dig into the earth to make a cave, which would certainly have been the best way. The house was square, about 20 feet each way, which they began to erect by driving long stakes into the earth; and round these they wattled boughs as thick as possible, beating them down very close. This first work was six feet high on both sides, but at the ends it reached almost to the very top, where two holes were left to admit the light, and let out the smoke. They then cut down trees, which they proportioned into lengths of six feet: of these they made a pile on both

ſides the houſe ſix feet thick and ſix feet high, but at both ends ten feet high and ſix feet thick. They left a little low door to creep in at, and a portal before that, to keep the wind from blowing into it. They next faſtened a rough tree on the top, upon which they laid the rafters, and the main courſe over them, which covering the whole, reached from each ſide to the ground.

The inſide they lined with their bonnet ſails; then driving in ſtakes made bedſtead-frames about the three ſides of the houſe, which doubled one under another, the lowermoſt being a foot from the ground. Theſe they firſt filled with boughs, upon which they laid their ſpare ſails, and then their bedding and cloaths. In the middle of the houſe they made a hearth for the fire, and round it placed ſome boards to ſtand upon, to prevent their being injured by the cold damps of the earth; and with their waſte cloaths and ſmall ſails, they made teſters and curtains.

They built another houſe at not above 20 feet diſtance, which had the ſame ſort of wattling, but it was leſs. Inſtead of piles on the ſouth ſide all the cheſts were heaped up within; and indeed the reflection of the fire againſt them made it warmer than the manſion-houſe. Here they dreſſed their proviſions, and the inferior part of the crew refreſhed themſelves in it all day.

The ſtore-houſe, for fear of fire, was 29 paces diſtant. It was only a rough tree faſtened aloft, with rafters laid from it to the ground, and

and covered with a new ſuit of ſails. Within it were laid ſmall trees, ſpread over with boughs, on which the bread and fiſh were ſtowed, at the diſtance of about two feet from the ground, in order to preſerve them from damage; but other things lay more careleſsly.

Long before *Chriſtmas* the manſion-houſe was covered thick with ſnow, almoſt to the very roof, as was alſo the ſecond houſe; but the ſtore-houſe was covered all over, on account of there being no fire in it. Thus they ſeemed to live in a wilderneſs of ſnow, which they were obliged to ſhovel away from their doors; and this being trampled upon ſerved for the Captain's gallery and the ſick men's walk, the ſurface of it being at leaſt a yard above the ground.

The month of *January*, 1632, was extremely cold. The ſea was firmly frozen, and no where to be ſeen. On the 21ſt the ſun aroſe along the horizon of an oval figure, twice as long as it was broad; but as it got higher, it reſumed its common form. On the 30th and 31ſt, in the beginning of the night Captain *James* obſerved more ſtars in the firmament by two thirds than he had ever ſeen before; but the moon riſing about ten o'clock, three parts of them were eclipſed by her luſtre. The wind was northerly and very cold the greateſt part of the month: but when it was warmeſt, the men employed themſelves in fetching wood, and working upon the pinnace.

During the month of *February* the cold was as extreme as it had been any time in the whole year,

year, and its diſmal effects were bitterly felt by theſe unhappy people, ſome of whom had all their teeth looſe, and their gums ſwelled and covered with rotten fleſh. Others had pains in their heads and breaſts; ſome a weakneſs in their backs; others aches in their thighs and knees, and others ſwellings in their legs; and by theſe diſorders two thirds of the company were under the ſurgeon's hands.

To remedy their dreadful effects of the ſcurvy, the ſurgeon, who was a man of an amiable temper, exerted his utmoſt diligence; and riſing early in the morning, picked their teeth and cut away the black rotten fleſh from their gums, while their thighs, knees and legs were bathed in a tub of warm water. There was no tree, bud, or herb, of which they did not make trial; and theſe being boiled in a kettle, and put into a ſmall tub and baſons, they placed it under them, and by bathing the aggrieved parts, ſo mollified them that though when they roſe out of their beds, they were ſo crippled as ſcarcely able to ſtand, yet after this had been done half an hour, they were able to walk, and were under the neceſſity of wading through the ſnow about buſineſs. By night, however, they were as bad as before, and then their mouths were again dreſſed, and their limbs bathed, before they went to bed. Theſe dreadful diſtreſſes were aggravated by moſt of them having no ſhoes to ſecure their feet from the ſnow; for upon their coming out of the ſnow to the fire, they were ſcorched upon

upon their feet, and the ſore ſhoes were all ſunk in the ſhip. In this neceſſity they faſtened clouts about their feet, and with this poor expedient endeavoured to perform their duty.

It may be neceſſary here to obſerve with reſpect to proviſions, that, as there was no hopes of recruiting, the cook ordered them in the following manner. The beef which was to ſerve on *Sunday* night for ſupper, was boiled on *Saturday* night, for about an hour, in a kettle full of water, with a quart of oatmeal. The beef being then taken out, the reſt was boiled to half the quantity, and the pottage they eat with bread as hot as they could. On *Sunday* they dined upon pork and peas, and at night the beef being boiled again, made more pottage; and thus they proceeded the reſt of the week; but as many of the people fell ſick after *Chriſtmas*, and from the ſoreneſs of their mouths could neither eat beef, pork, ſalt fiſh nor pottage, ſome pounded bread in a mortar, and eat it after its being fried with a little oil, and others boiled peas to a ſoft paſte.

In the whole winter they did not take above a dozen foxes, ſome of which were dead two or three days in the traps before they were found, when the blood being ſettled they were unwholeſome: but when one of them was taken alive he was boiled to make broth for the weakeſt of the ſick men, and the fleſh being boiled ſoft, they alſo eat of it. Some white partridges were alſo killed, but theſe were very few.

Abroad

Abroad the ſeverity of the weather was ſcarce to be endured, no cloaths being proof againſt it, nor any motion ſufficient to keep up their natural warmth. It froze the hair on their eye-lids ſo that the men could not ſee. The inſide of the houſe hung with icicles, and even the bed-cloaths, though the beds were almoſt cloſe to the fire, were covered with hoar froſt, and the ground was frozen ten feet below the ſurface.

On the 15th of *March*, one of the men thinking he had ſeen a deer, engaged two or three others, with the Captain's leave, to go in ſearch of it: but they returned at night without ſucceſs ſo diſabled with cold, that they did not recover their former ſtate till a fortnight after, their legs and the ſoles of their feet being covered with bliſters as big as walnuts. On the 26th, three others alſo deſired to go out, in order to try their fortunes, but returned even worſe diſabled, and almoſt periſhed with the cold.

The providing timber for fewel, as well as for making the pinnace, was attended with the utmoſt difficulty, for the axes and hatchets were all either broke in the blades, ſockets or handles, yet theſe were the only inſtruments they had to cut down trees and form handles for theſe tools. It was beſides extremely difficult to find wood fit for firing; that which was green almoſt ſuffocating them with ſmoke, and a kind of turpentine iſſuing from that which was dry, alſo cauſed a ſmoke, which though

though not ſo intolerable as the other, covered them with ſoot.

The firſt of *April* being *Eaſter* day, they ſolemnized it in a religious manner; both that and the two following holidays were exceſſive cold, and now they all ſat about the fire conſidering and reaſoning on their preſent ſituation. The carpenter had ſome time before been ſo weak, that he had been led to his work, and was now with four other men not able to do any thing; the boat-ſwain, and many more were very infirm, and there were but five who could eat their ordinary allowance. The ſeaſon of the year on which all their hopes depended, came on apace, and yet the cold was very little abated: their pinnace was in an indifferent forwardneſs; but the carpenter, inſtead of giving hopes of his recovery, grew worſe and worſe, and the ſhip they imagined to be full of ſolid ice, the weight of which would be ſufficient to open the ſeams of any new and ſound veſſel, and more eſpecially of one that had lain ſo long upon the ground as ſhe had done. In ſhort, after laying open their miſerable and helpleſs ſituation, and entering into many diſputes, the Captain reſolved, that notwithſtanding it was more labour, and the men grew weaker and weaker, yet with the firſt warm weather they ſhould begin to clear the ſhip; upon which they ſearched for the tools proper for digging the ice out of her, when it was found they had but two iron bars on ſhore, and one of them broken, the reſt being ſunk in the ſhip. With theſe bars, and four broken ſhovels,

ſhovels, they afterwards began to dig the ice, and to lay it about the ſhip in ſuch a manner as to form a barricado to prevent her being damaged when the ice ſhould break in the bay, which it was to be feared might in her preſent crazy condition ſhatter her all to pieces.

The 16th being the moſt comfortable ſunſhiny day they had felt that year, they cleared the ſhip's deck of ſnow, and made a good fire to dry the great cabin, while others were ordered to dig through the ice for the anchor, which being in ſhoal-water, was diſcovered the next day and brought on board.

On the 19th, the maſter, and two others, deſired they might lie on board, that they might withdraw themſelves from the groans and lamentations of their companions, to which the Captain freely conſented; for they had lain very incommodiouſly all the winter, with ſick bed-fellows.

The greateſt part of this month was ſpent in ſtopping the holes bored in the ſhip to ſink her, repairing her other damages, and freeing her from ice and ſnow, in performing which ſuch of the hands as were able laboured with great alacrity, and by the 28th the cook had ſet free the pumps, by pouring boiling water into them, when they delivered water very well. On the 29th it rained all day, which gave them great joy, as it was a certain ſign that winter was broke up, and though it hailed, ſnowed, and was very cold on the two following days, yet the rain had given them ſuch ſpirits, that on *May* eve, they ſat round a good fire and diverti-

diverted themſelves by chuſing their miſtreſſes, and wearing their names in their caps.

CHAP. III.

The Weather grows extremely hot, and the Ice breaks. The green Leaves of Vetches diſcovered, which prove a wonderful Reſtorative. They find ſome uſeful Stores in the Hold. They float the Ship into the Sea. Take a formal Poſſeſſion of theſe Territories for his Majeſty's Uſe. The whole Iſland ſet on fire. The Captain gives up an Account of his Adventures. A Deſcription of the Iſland.

THE thaw now encreaſed; but on the ſecond of *May* the weather was ſo extremely ſharp, that thoſe who had any ſtrength left durſt not ſtir out of doors, and thoſe who were ſick in bed ſwooned, on being turned.

On the fourth, when the melted ſnow began to lie in plaſhes, ſome cranes and geeſe made their appearance; but though the Captain and ſurgeon went out with their guns to try if they could kill any of theſe fowl for their ſick men, they were ſo ſhy, that after having ſpent above two hours to no purpoſe, they returned, not being able to endure any longer the fatigue of ſtalking through the ſnow, and with ſuch pains in their limbs, that the Captain thought he ſhould have loſt his legs.

On the ninth, they heaved out of the hold four buts of beer and one of cyder, which, to their great joy, they found to be extremely good, it having lain under water all the winter. They alſo the ſame day got up five barrels of beef and pork. By the 12th they had cleared the hold of all the ice, and came at the ſtore ſhoes. Upon which they were dried by the fire, and every man fitted himſelf with a pair. They alſo found a butt of wine, which was hard frozen.

They now fitted the ſhip, in which they could find no defect, and therefore hoped that ſhe was ſtaunch; but the carpenter was of a different opinion, and alledged, that now ſhe lay on the ground, her defects were filled by the ice, which alone kept out the water.

On the 14th the boatſwain, with ſome other hands, brought aſhore the reſt of the rigging, which was much ſpoiled by pecking it out of the ice; and this they began to refit, while the cooper, though very infirm, was employed in making up the caſks. Mr. *James* intending if he could not get the ſhip otherwiſe eaſily off, to paſs ſome cables under her, and buoy her up with caſks. The ſame day that gentleman having made ſome ſhot with old pewter, and the aprons of his guns, for he would not touch the carpenter's ſheet lead, ſent ſome other perſons to ſee if they could kill ſome wild fowl for the ſick, who now grew worſe and worſe, and the next day he dug up a little piece of ground that was free from ſnow, and

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On the 18th died *William Cole* the carpenter, who was much beloved by all the men. He had nearly compleated the pinnace, which was a well proportioned veſſel of about twelve or fourteen tons burden, and was twenty-ſeven feet by the keel. They were, however, in hopes of being able to finiſh her, in caſe the ſhip ſhould prove unſerviceable. The maſter of the ſhip returning from the funeral, obſerved the body of the gunner who died ſix months before, under the gun room ports, though he had been committed to the ſea at a conſiderable diſtance from the ſhip. The next day the Captain ordered it to be dug out. He was faſt in the ice, with his head downwards, and only his leg upwards; the plaiſter was yet on the ſtump of the other. It is remarkable, that he had no noiſome ſmell, and that his fleſh would ſlip up and down upon his bones like a glove. In the evening he was buried by the carpenter.

The ſnow was by this time pretty well waſted in the woods, and there being a high tree on the greateſt eminence in the iſland, they named it the Watch Tower; from the top of it they had a view of the ſea, but could yet perceive no appearance of the ice breaking. The 21ſt was the warmeſt ſun-ſhiny day they had felt in the iſland. The Captain ſent two men a fowling, and went himſelf with the maſter, ſurgeon, and another perſon, with their pieces and dogs, in order to ſearch the woods,

for what they could find; but after having wandered eight miles from the houſe, they returned without the ſatisfaction of having diſcovered an herb or leaf that was eatable, and the fowlers had no better ſucceſs. They found the ſnow partly evaporated in the woods, for it does not melt there with the ſun or rain, and make land floods as in other climates; but is exhaled by the ſun, and drawn full of holes like a honeycomb, without wetting the ſand on which it lies.

They had now ſometimes ſuch hot weather, that they could not endure the heat of the ſunbeam, and yet in the night it froze very hard. There was no ſign of the ice breaking till the 24th, when it cracked all over the bay with a dreadful noiſe, and about three in the afternoon they could perceive it float with the ebb, and drive by the ſhip, when they found the advantage of the barricado of ice they had laid, which prevented her being daſhed to pieces. The ſame day one of the men ſtriking his lance down among the ice, happily ſtruck upon the rudder, and brought it up, when others coming to his aſſiſtance it was heaved into the ſhip. In the mean time the ice began to riſe and mount into high heaps againſt the ſhore and rocks; but in an hour's time it ſettled again. This was a joyful day, and all the men joined in returning thanks to God for the reviving hopes it afforded.

On the 28th, the ſea was pretty clear betwixt the ſhip and the ſhore. On the 29th, being Prince *Charles*'s birth-day, they kept holiday, and

and displayed his Majesty's colours both on land and aboard, and named their habitation *Charles Town*, by contraction *Charlton*, and the island *Charlton Island*. On the 30th, they launched their boat, and passed in it to the ship, which was now a new employment. On the last day of the month they found some green leaves of vetches, which they boiled for the sick; they also prepared their sails and rigging, and aired their provisions, there not being a man able to eat any thing salt, except the captain and master. But the cold sometimes returned with great violence. However, by feeding on the green vetches they had so providentially discovered, the sick men gathered strength surprisingly; and those who had been so ill as to be unable to stir for two or three months, could endure the air and walk about the house. They gathered the leaves of the vetches soon after they appeared out of the ground, and having washed and boiled them, eat them with the oil and vinegar that had been frozen; and this was such a refreshing food, that most of the men eat nothing else. They also eat them raw with their bread, and bruised them and mixed the juice with their drink. By these means they recovered strength apace, and having pumped the water out of the ship, they hung on their rudder, heaved out all the ballast, and carrying every thing on shore, rendered the ship as light as possible.

On the 16th of *June* there was some thunder and lightning, and the weather was so hot, that the men went into the ponds to swim, yet

the water was ſtill very cool. There had lately appeared ſeveral ſorts of flies, as butterflies, horſe-flies, and an infinite number of muſketoes, that tormented the men extremely. Theſe the Captain ſuppoſes lie ſenſeleſs in the old rotten wood all the winter, and are revived by the heat of ſummer. There were alſo a prodigious number of ants, and vaſt quantities of frogs in the ponds; but as they were ſpeckled like toads, they durſt not eat them; however, there were yet neither bears, foxes, nor fowl to be ſeen.

Having before dug the ſand from the ſides of the ſhip, and ſufficiently lightened her, they took the advantage of ſome high tides, and got her into deep water.

On the 24th, the Captain, who had before cauſed a very high tree to be cut down, and a croſs to be made of it, now affixed to it the pictures of King *Charles* I. and his Queen well drawn, and cloſe wrapped in lead, ſo that no air could poſſibly hurt them, and between theſe affixed his Majeſty's titles, *viz.* CHARLES *King of* England, Scotland, France, *and* Ireland, *alſo of* Newfoundland, *and the territories to the weſtward as far as* Nova Albion, *and to the northward to the latitude of eighty degrees, &c.* On the outſide of the lead he nailed a ſhilling and a ſix-pence of King *Charles*'s coin, and under it his Majeſty's arms cut in lead, under which was the arms of the city of *Briſtol*; and this being *Midſummer-Day*, Capt. *James* erected this croſs thus ornamented, on the top of the hill where the men had buried their deceaſed

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companions. By this ceremony he took poſſeſſion of theſe territories for his Majeſty's uſe.

On the 25th in the morning, the boatſwain, with ſome of the beſt hands, began to rig the ſhip, the reſt fetching the proviſions and other neceſſaries on board. At about ten o'clock the Captain with a lance in his hand, attended by another perſon with a muſket, went to the watch-tree, to make a fire on the higheſt part of the iſland, in expectation that if there had been any ſavages at ſea, or in the neighbouring iſlands, they would have anſwered it by another ſignal, by which means he might have gone to them, and have obtained ſome uſeful intelligence. When he came to the tree he laid down his lance, as the ſailor did his muſket; and while he was climbing, the ſailor unadviſedly ſet fire to ſome low trees that were to windward; ſo that the Captain had ſcarcely ſettled himſelf on the top of his watch-tree, when he perceived that the fire ran from tree to tree with ſurpriſing rapidity, all of them being dried by the heat of the weather; and the wind blowing towards him, he haſted down as faſt as poſſible. But he had ſcarcely got half way before the fire ſeized on the bottom of the tree, and blazed ſo fiercely upwards that he was obliged to leap off: and though he made what haſte he could down a ſteep hill, the fire followed ſo cloſe at his heels, that he with difficulty eſcaped being burnt to death. The moſs on the ground was as dry as flax, and it ran like a train along the earth. The muſket

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and the lance were both burnt. The failor at length overtook the Captain, and expreſſing great joy at ſeeing him alive, they went home together, leaving the fire every minute increaſing, and burning moſt furiouſly. The Captain ſlept but little that night, and at break of day ordered all the powder and beef to be carried aboard: after which he went to the hills to obſerve the fire, where he ſaw it ſtill ſpreading to the weſtward and northward. He left a perſon there to watch it, and immediately returning home bid his people take down their new ſuit of ſails from the houſes, and carry them to the ſea-ſide, in order to caſt them in if neceſſary; and afterwards pull down the buildings with all poſſible expedition. About noon the wind ſhifted to the northward, when the ſentinel came running home, bringing word that the fire followed him at his heels like a train of powder. There was now no occaſion to bid them pull down and carry all to the ſea-ſide. The fire came towards them with a moſt terrible rattling noiſe, being a full mile in breadth; and by the time they had uncovered their houſes, and were going to carry away the laſt things, it came to their town, (as they termed it) and inſtantly burnt it to the ground. They however loſt nothing of value, having carried all into a place of ſecurity. The wind then ſhifted towards the eaſt, and the fire ſpread to the weſtward, conſuming all before it. That night they all lay on board the ſhip, where they with great ſolemnity returned

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turned thanks to heaven for their preſervation.

On the three following days they took their water and other things aboard. By this time the bay was quite clear of ice, it being all gone to the northward. The climate now appeared very unwholeſome, for in the day-time the heat, being increaſed by the reflection of the ſandy ſoil, was inſupportable, yet at night the ponds froze an inch thick. But the greateſt inconvenience they felt was from the ſtinging of the muſketoes, againſt which there was no defending themſelves; for though they made bags to put their heads in, out of an old flag, which they tore for that purpoſe, thoſe troubleſome inſects made their way through; ſo that their faces were filled with pimples, accompanied by a violent itching and ſmarting.

On the 1ſt of *July* they aroſe early, and the Captain cauſed the ſhip to be adorned in the beſt manner he was able, with the flag in the poop, and the King's colours in the main-top. He had provided a ſhort account of all the events in this voyage, till that day; to which was added the ſtate they were in at preſent, and how he intended to proſecute the diſcovery; which he concluded with a requeſt, that any noble-minded traveller who ſhould take it down, or come to the knowledge of it, would, in caſe they ſhould periſh, make their endeavours known to the King. With this paper they went on ſhore with their arms, colours, and drums, attended by the cook with his kettle, and marched up to the croſs, near which the

the fire could not come, on account of its being encompaſſed by a bare ſandy ground. There they read morning prayers, and then walked about till dinner. After which they proceeded to the higheſt hills, in order to ſee which way the fire had ſpread, when they obſerved it had extended 16 miles to the weſtward, and the whole breadth of the iſland. After evening prayers, the Captain, walking along the beach ſide, found a herb reſembling ſcurvy-graſs, of which he had ſome gathered, which being boiled with their meat for ſupper, they found it a moſt agreeable food. They had therefore no ſooner ſupped, than they went to ſearch for more of it, and carried off about two buſhels. The ſun being now ſet, they aſſembled and went up to take the laſt view of the graves of their deceaſed companions, and having faſtened the above paper, which was ſecurely wrapped up in lead, to the croſs, they took their boat, and departed with a view of never more ſetting their foot on the iſland.

The ſoil of this and all the other iſlands near it, as likewiſe that of the main, is a light white ſand, covered over with a white moſs; it is full of ſhrubs and low buſhes, except ſome hills and other ſpots that are bare: in theſe places the ſand is driven by the wind like duſt. This iſland was very full of trees, particularly ſpruce and juniper; but the biggeſt tree the Captain ſaw was only a foot and a half in diameter. They ſaw many foxes all the winter, and killed ſeveral, but they all went away in *May*. They had a view alſo of ſome other ſmall

small beasts, and saw a few bears, but killed none of them. In *May* there came some fowl, as has already been observed, and particularly ducks and geese, of which they killed very few. They had also white partridges in small quantities.

CHAP. IV.

They sail to Danby *Island, to take in more Wood: Again set sail, and are exposed to many Hardships, and the greatest Danger from Storms, Rocks, and Ice, till they begin to despair of returning. The Captain again prosecutes the intended Discovery; but being exposed to new Dangers, returns to* England.

ON the 2d of *July* they chearfully weighed anchor, and stood over for *Danby* Island, to take in more wood, and to be ready to seize the first opportunity of a fair wind. The ship was to all appearance free from damage, and able to last the intended voyage: the men were in tolerable health, and had still left a considerable quantity of the provisions they had brought from *England*.

On their arrival at *Danby* Island, the Captain and some of his people went ashore, when several stakes were found driven into the ground about a foot and a half deep. They were of the thickness of a man's arm, and being pulled up, were found pointed by a hatchet or

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ſome other edged tool; and by them were fire-brands half burnt. The diſcovery increaſed Mr. *James*'s deſire to ſpeak with ſome of the ſavages, by whom he hoped to be enabled to increaſe his knowledge of the ſituation of thoſe parts; and, perhaps, to ſtart ſome commerce that might be of advantage to his country. But no inhabitants of any ſort appeared.

About four in the afternoon, he returned on board in the boat, which was loaded with wood; but from the 5th to the 22d they made little way, being moſt dreadfully peſtered and tormented with ice, and ſometimes they were ſo blinded with the fogs, that they could not ſee about them, which occaſioned their ſtriking upon the ice with ſuch violence, that the cook and others ran up to the deck, imagining the ſhip had been beaten to pieces: ſhe hourly ſtruck ſuch blows, that the hatches were left open to afford the men frequent opportunities of examining and repairing any damage, and twenty times in a day the men would run into the hold to ſee if ſhe was bulged. At other times, when they had made her faſt in the night to a large piece of ice, they had ſuch violent ſtorms that their faſtening broke, and they were beat from piece to piece in a moſt dreadful manner. At other times again, they were faſt incloſed among great pieces of ice as high as their poop. Theſe large pieces were formed by one piece running upon another, which made them draw eight or ten fathoms water; beſides which, the lowermoſt would riſe from underneath, and thoſe of five, fix, nay of

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eight tons, ſtrike the ſhip under the bulge. Among theſe inceſſant dangers, the Captain over-heard the men complain, that thoſe were happy who had been buried in the iſland, and that if they had a thouſand pounds, they would give it to lie fairly by them, ſince they were deſtined to ſtarve upon a piece of ice. The Captain liſtened to them with patience, and comforted them till he found them in a better humour.

On the 22d, after a ſtormy night and a thick fog in the morning, the weather cleared up, and they ſaw land, which they knew to be *Cape Henrietta Maria*, and inſtantly ſtood in for it. In the mean time they made a croſs, to which they faſtened the King's arms, and the arms of the city of *Briſtol*. Coming to an anchor in ſix fathoms water, within a mile of the ſhore, they hoiſted out the boat, and taking their arms and dogs landed, and upon the higheſt eminence erected the croſs. They ſoon after ſaw ſeveral deer, but though they ſtole towards them, and then ſet on their dogs, the deer ran off at pleaſure; and after having tired both themſelves and the dogs, they were obliged to leave off the chace, none of the deer coming within gun-ſhot; when having taken half a dozen young geeſe on the pools by wading, they returned to their boat, vexed at being tantalized with the view of refreſhments which they were unable to obtain. As theſe greyhounds had been very troubleſome and miſchievous on board the ſhip, the Captain cauſed them to be left on ſhore. They

were a dog and a bitch of a very good breed, and the dog had a collar about his neck, in order that he might be known by future diſcoverers. In this iſland they obſerved no ſign of any inhabitants.

In the evening they returned on board, and ſtood out to ſea, in order to weather the Cape: and it proving a moon-light night, they proceeded among great pieces of ice; but at length finding many of them as dangerous as rocks, they let fall an anchor, and all the men were ordered upon deck to man the poles, to each of which there was a neceſſity of having four men, though it often over-powered their utmoſt efforts, and came with violent ſhocks againſt the ſhip's ſides. However, at break of day, they weighed and fought all ways of clearing themſelves of the ice.

In extremities of this kind they laboured ſome weeks, giving and receiving near 500 dreadful blows in a day; ſometimes uſing their ſails, and at others having recourſe to their anchors, when they could get a little open water, in order to ſuffer the ice to drive to leeward. At other times they were incloſed among it, when it would break and riſe in ſuch a manner as made them every moment expect to be beaten to pieces; beſides they had ſuch ſtorms in the dark nights as broke their moorings to thoſe large pieces to which they faſtened for their ſecurity in the night.

At length the ſhip became ſo very leaky, that they were obliged to pump every half watch, upon which the Captain called a coun-

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cil, when it being the general opinion that it was impoſſible to proceed on account of the ice, the Captain reſolved, that when the wind blew the ice off the ſouth ſhore, he would then ſeek to get between the ice and the land. This he knew to be a deſperate reſolution, all the coaſt being ſhoal and foul ground, filled with rocks and ſtones; but the wind turning to the ſouth, he ſoon put this project in execution.

On the 1ſt of *Auguſt* they were again forced to ſtruggle with the ice, and the wind being contrary, were obliged to come to an anchor near the ſhore, when many pieces of ice were aground in ſhoal water, and few of them at a greater diſtance from the other than a cable's length. The next day they were incloſed with extraordinary large pieces, and it being a thick fog, they made the ſhip faſt to one of them.

On the 3d, 4th, and 5th, they were ſtill incloſed, and it blew ſuch a ſtorm of wind, that endeavouring to get forward to the weſtward, the ſhip ſtruck ſuch heavy blows as made all the fore-part crack. Upon this they left off working, when the ice broke and roſe under them, which put them in as great danger as they were in before. The ſhip now made a ton of water every watch, which they pumped out before they engaged in any other employment. On the fifth at noon they were in 55°. latitude, at 12 leagues diſtance from *Cape Henrietta Maria*, which was all they had gained ſince the 22d of *July*. All night it blew a

violent ſtorm at north-north-weſt, and about midnight, the hawſer, which they had faſtened to a piece of ice, broke, and they loſt four fathoms of it. The ſhip beat all night in a moſt dreadful manner, being toſſed from piece to piece, becauſe the Captain durſt not venture to let his men go on the ice in the dark for fear of loſing them. The ſtorm continued all the next day, and again drove them with the ice almoſt to the Cape.

The ſeventh was the moſt comfortable day they had enjoyed ſince their leaving *Charlton* Iſland, for the wind turned to the eaſt, and they at length got into open water. Their dangers were however far from being over. The wind ſoon ſhifted, and a range of ice drove towards them; but though they prevented its falling foul of them, they were in a little time ſurrounded by it, and all their hopes of ſafety deſtroyed. They no ſooner recovered from this diſtreſs than they were involved in others: ſhoals of ice, ſtorms, and fogs, ſtill ſeeming to conſpire their deſtruction, till on the 19th of *Auguſt* they had paſſed the imminent dangers, to which they had been expoſed for ſix weeks together from the ice.

The Captain now reſumed his deſign of attempting the diſcovery of a north-weſt paſſage; and therefore looked into *Cary's Swan's neſt* and *Ne plus ultra*. On the 24th he made *Nottingham* Iſland; but at eight in the evening it began to blow a very ſtiff gale, and at nine they had a violent ſtorm, which continued all night and the next day till the evening. On the 26th by

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by two in the morning they were ſuddenly got amongſt the ice, when the moon ſhining, they perceived it, and would have ſtayed the ſhip; but it was ſo thick to the windward, and ſo near that they durſt not. She therefore ſtruck upon the ice with great violence, and in the morning they could ſee from the topmaſt-head a vaſt quantity of it to the north, the north-weſt, and round by the ſouth to the eaſt, which filling them all with great concern, the Captain called a conſultation of his officers. Upon this, they gave him their unanimous opinions in writing, that no advantage could be obtained by continuing longer in thoſe ſeas, in conſequence of which, he ordered the pilot to ſteer for *England*, and they purſued their courſe generally blinded with fogs, and ſnowy and froſty weather, among diſperſed pieces of ice, many of which were higher than the top-maſt-head, and on the 30th of this month were in the narroweſt part of the ſtreight.

In the beginning of *September* they cleared the ſtreights, after paſſing by mountains of ice of an incredible height, far exceeding any they had yet ſeen, and the cold ſo exceſſive, that it was with difficulty the men could take in the top and ſprit-ſail in an evening. On the 8th, they had a tumbling ſea, the wind coming in ſqualls, and the ſhip rolling to ſuch a degree, that they were afraid ſhe would have brought her maſts by the board; beſides, her ſeams gaped ſo much, that they all lay wet, and her leaks required a conſtant attention to the pump. However, after this day they ſaw no more ice,

and having a favourable wind, came to an anchor in *Briſtol* Road on the 22d of *October*. The ſhip being brought into harbour, and put into a dry dock, it appeared miraculous that ſhe had been able to perform her voyage, for ſhe had loſt 14 feet of her keel: all her cutwater, and great part of her ſheathing were beaten and torn away; her bows were bruiſed and broken, many of her timbers cracked, and in one place the ſharp rocks had cut through the ſheathing, the planks, and an inch and a half into one of the timbers.

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